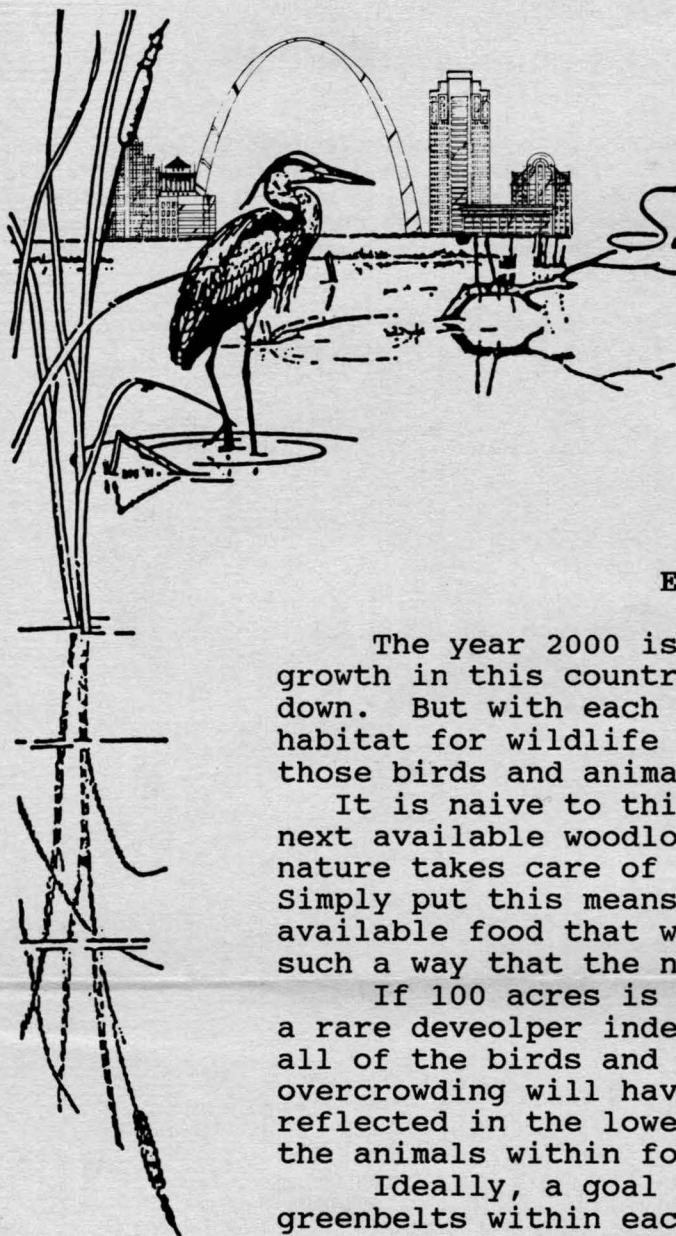




Saint Louis Audubon Society

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE

Cis Hager

'89

The year 2000 is rapidly approaching, and the rate of growth in this country (on this planet) has yet to slow down. But with each development that springs up, that much habitat for wildlife disappears. Does anyone consider WHERE those birds and animals go?

It is naive to think that these animals merely move to next available woodlot. There is a clever label for what nature takes care of automatically: carrying capacity. Simply put this means the amount of acreage and the total available food that will support an animal population in such a way that the numbers remain in balance.

If 100 acres is bulldozed for a development, (and it is a rare developer indeed who leaves anything standing), and all of the birds and mammals move 'next door', the resultant overcrowding will have insufficient food which will be reflected in the lowered reproduction and general health of the animals within followed by a decline in animals.

Ideally, a goal would be to incorporate large enough greenbelts within each and every development to support wildlife." Environmental architecture."

This takes a vast amount of cooperation between less than amiable factions: the environmentalists and the developers.

While these two parties are coming together, there are a lot of ways that an individual can make an impact; and the time is now! Create small microhabitats in your yard or neighborhood for wildlife. Make it the project of a local scout group. When driving, make a note of those large spacious areas that are being mowed, and try to convince the landowners of the greater good in letting the grass grow up. Should you know of an area targeted for development, make it your business to demand careful thought to the idea of greenbelts.

We all could learn a lot from the lower elementary school children who spend the fall learning about the food chain. Remember, if man is at the top, won't he want a sturdy support beneath him? If our habitat falls, so do we.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Yellowstone

Dale Johnson

Friday, April 7, 1989

Yellowstone as documented by Dale Johnson: Spring birds return; baby badgers appear; moose calves gambol. "Tom The Terrible Tourist" attempts to see the entire Park in one day. Trumpeter swans chase an intruder; elk cows play tag; grizzly bears confront a coyote. Bighorn sheep begin mating battles; otters frolic on ice and snow.



- APRIL 1
SATURDAY 8:00 AM. Saturday birding walks at Busch Wildlife Area. Meet at Knight's Lake parking lot approx. 0.2 miles west of Busch HQ parking. Bring binoculars, lunch, beverage. To get there: Take 40 west across the Missouri River, south on 94 to D, turn right for 1 mile to the HQ.
- APRIL 7
FRIDAY FILM ADVENTURE SERIES. Yellowstone by Dale Johnson. Webster Groves Christian Church at 8:00 PM.
- APRIL 9
SUNDAY Monthly Education Center Open House. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Program at 1:30 PM. Donna Ford...recently returned from her Missouri Botanical Garden study in Chile, presents "Chile.. Land of the Calandrinia". Come and learn what a calandrinia really is. See it pictured on 35 mm slides before your very eyes.
- APRIL 24
MONDAY Annual Spring Banquet. Good meeting - good food - good fellowship. Make reservations now. See details in this bulletin.
- May 14
SUNDAY Monthly Education Center Open House. 1:30 PM. Otter Restoration in Missouri. David Hamilton, Fur Bearer Biologist at the Mo. Dept. of Conservation Fish and Wildlife Research Center in Columbia, Mo., will describe the ongoing 11 year restoration efforts involving the placement of otters from Louisiana into Missouri's streams. Slides and a bit of video tape demonstrate the charm of these animals.
- JUNE 24
SATURDAY Monthly Education Center meeting. 8:30 PM. A departure from our usual Sunday schedule...but for a good reason...Nocturnal Insect Safari, or Blacklighting - Ted MacRae, Richard Thoma, Phil Koenig, Mike Arduser. Many insects are active only at night and thus are rarely observed. Come see the other half of the insect world, some of which are stunningly beautiful.

FRIENDS OF PERE MARQUETTE STATE PARK

Many people from this area have known and loved Pere Marquette State Park for years and have tended to take this marvelous natural area for granted. In addition to the recent renovation of the Lodge a full-time naturalist, Karen Anderson, has been hired. Since the Park is underutilized as an outdoor educational facility Karen will have unlimited opportunities to develop programs.

However, one person cannot provide the full range of educational programs (nature hikes, workshops, campfire talks, etc.) that are needed. The plan is to form a non-profit Friends group to coordinate support for natural history educational projects in the Park.

The idea has been warmly received by Park personnel. It is now proposed to have an initial meeting to find a group to set-up the organization. Dr. John Wanamaker, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Principia College, has agreed to give a talk at the Lodge on Friday, May 12 at 7:30 PM. Doc Wanamaker will give a historical view of natural history at the Park from his personal experience, which began in the late 1930's. He will also tell how his experience establishing a Friends group at a California county park can be applied here.

If you have any questions concerning this program, or would like to volunteer your services, please call Prof. G. Tanner Girard at Principia College, 618/374-2131, ext. 446.

IN MEMORIAM

HENRIETTA HADLEY LAMMERT

Mrs. Lammert, a long-time St. Louis Audubon board member, died this past February. She was the daughter of former Governor Hadley, and spent much of her early childhood playing around the governor's mansion in Jefferson City. Later she attended Smith College and graduated with honors. She and husband, Warren Lammert, were most active in conservation affairs and supported many programs in favor of desirable projects.

In 1969, the National Audubon Society convention was held in St. Louis and Mrs. Lammert chaired the committee which hosted the meeting. By all accounts, this was one of the most outstanding of the National Audubon conventions, particularly in regard to the many excellent field trips she planned.

Her influence will long be felt.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1988-1989

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Blaine A. Ulmer - Editor 966-5425
Wm. E. Wiese 965-2310
Betty Williams - Correspondence 968-9694

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

Any individual who is a member of National Audubon Society and therefore the St. Louis Audubon Society can become an affiliate member to the Audubon Society of Missouri for \$5.00. Membership includes a subscription to The Bluebird.

Membership has to be made through the St. Louis Audubon Society
Treasurer:

Mary Lou Miller
St. Louis Audubon Society
3927 Lucas & Hunt Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Please make check out to The Audubon Society of Missouri.

NAS Television

TV Special Looks at Perishing Platte

Every year, in March, half a million sandhill cranes—80 percent of the world's entire sandhill population—stop over in the Platte River in Nebraska on their way from their wintering grounds in the south to their nesting grounds in northern Canada. Nowhere else is there such a gathering. Dean of birders Roger Tory Peterson has called it "one of the wonders of the world."

"Crane River," the newest Audubon Television Special, takes viewers to this rare and awesome happening. It also takes a hard look at the problems that threaten to make the crane spectacle a thing of the past.

The historic Platte River was described by early explorers as "a mile wide and a foot deep." It was a lifeline for settlers and wildlife alike. But today the river's flow has been reduced by nearly 70 percent. Cranes and other waterfowl are crowded into increasingly tight stretches of river. If some of the dozens of proposed water projects in the river basin are built, the once-great prairie river will virtually dry up.

Saving the Platte River is one of National Audubon's high-priority campaigns. Don't miss Audubon Television's program on this vital issue. "Crane River" can be seen on SuperStation TBS on the following dates:

- Sunday, May 28 at 10:00 p.m. (Eastern)
- Saturday, June 3 at 10:05 a.m. (Eastern)
- Sunday, June 11 at 8:00 p.m. (Pacific)
- Saturday, June 17 at 8:05 a.m. (Eastern).

The special will air again in August on PBS stations. All dates and times are subject to change, so check your local listings.

CONSERVATIONIST OF YEAR

It is time to present the St. Louis Audubon Conservationist of Year Award. If you have a candidate for this prestigious award in mind please give his/her name to Gary Giessow, 994-7570 by April 10th.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There will be an election of officers for the coming fiscal year to be held at the Annual Banquet on April 24th. Members of the nominating committee are: Marshall Wagner, Lee Mason, and Dick Coles. If you would like to place a name in nomination before the meeting you may call Marshall Wagner at 961-4588.

Audubon TV Specials in Home Video

In April, three outstanding Audubon Television Specials will be released as home videos: "Wood Stork: Barometer of the Everglades," narrated by Richard Crenna; "Ducks Under Siege," narrated by John Heard, and "Galapagos: My Fragile World," narrated by Cliff Robertson. The videos are marketed by Vestron Video and retail for \$29.98.

"Wood Stork" and "Ducks Under Siege" touch on the issue of wetlands conservation, which is a National Audubon Society high-priority campaign. Both programs were nominated for the prestigious "ACE" awards, cable television's "Emmys."

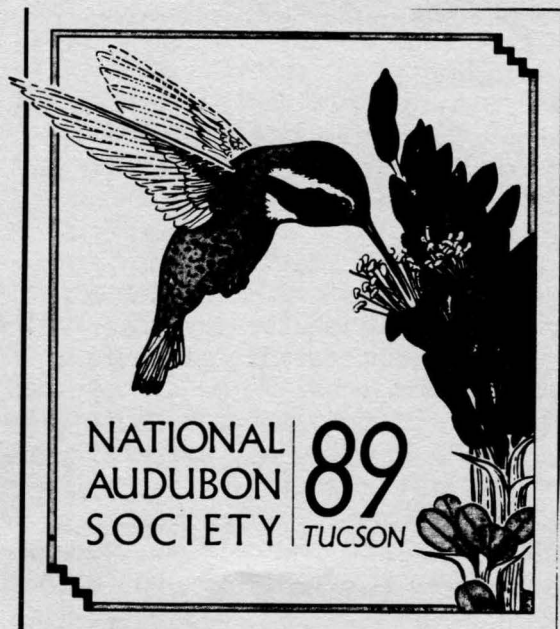
"Galapagos: My Fragile World" is a breathtaking odyssey through the homeland of renowned wildlife photographer and writer Tui De Roy.

Also available on home video are the Audubon Specials "California Condor," "The Mysterious Black-footed Ferret," and "On the Edge of Extinction: Panthers and Cheetahs." All six Audubon videos are available in video stores nationwide or can be ordered through Audubon Television, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.

FOREST PARK BIRD WALKS

Although not listed in the Calendar of Events there will be four bird walks in Forest Park. The dates are April 23rd, 30th, May 7th and 14th. Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot behind the Art Museum.

Bring binoculars and field guides, if you have them.



AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Saint Louis Audubon Society awarded two Audubon Camp Scholarships recently for the summer of 1989. Ms Freda I. Hill and Mrs. Barbara Riley were the recipients of these awards.

Ms Hill teaches Science in Grades 6 and 7 and is in her third year at the Mason Middle Investigative Learning Center School in St. Louis. She is a graduate of Soldan High School and has an Associate Business Education Degree and Certification in General Science from Harris Stowe State College, and is pursuing her Master's degree at Webster University.

Freda stated in her letter to our committee that she moved to the science field of study based solely on her personal concerns about the environment and the increasing numbers of plants and animals becoming endangered. She has been able to introduce a "hands-on" approach to learning and used various community organizations and workshops to further the students knowledge of birds of prey and endangered animals.

She has chosen the Maine Coast Field Ecology Camp for her Audubon Camp location.

Mrs. Barbara Riley presently teaches General Biology and Environmental Science at Parkway Central Senior High School. She developed the Environmental Science curriculum to meet the Missouri Core Competencies and to satisfy the interests of Juniors and Seniors in the elective science area. The course is presently a semester course, but soon will be a full-year 2-part course for next year. Barbara has been teaching science since 1973 having certificates in New Jersey, Ohio, North Carolina and Missouri. She has participated in many workshops to further her knowledge of environmental issues. She received her BA degree at William Paterson College of New Jersey and is working on her Masters degree.

She also has chosen the Maine Coast Field Ecology Camp. We look forward this Fall to hearing from these two deserving ladies as to their activities in Maine this summer.

It should be noted that the Webster Groves Nature Study Society and the Ladue Garden Club worked with our committee this year in selecting their recipients for the Audubon Camps. As a result six scholarships were awarded.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

At the last meeting there was a presentation made by the Market Development Assistant of the National Corn Growers Association regarding degradable plastics. Polyethylene bags, containing 6% cornstarch, have been shown to degrade in 3-5 years. The use of degradable plastics could potentially create a 150-300 million bushel market for corn, while being more environmentally friendly. This seems like a win situation for both the corn growers and the environment. While realizing that degradable plastic is not a panacea, it seems to be a better alternative than non-degradable plastics. By the way, the plastic grocery sacks now appearing at Schnucks and Dierbergs are not biodegradable, according to the representative from NCGA. The Conservation Committee wants to investigate this issue further. If you are interested in this, or any other conservation issue, consider joining this Committee. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Audubon Education Center at 6:30 PM (or call Bill Salsgiver at 225-1490) if you are interested.

IS THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR YOU?

To help people learn more about the natural environment, a Chapter Education Committee was formed and held its initial meeting March 28th. Many different educational topics and activities were discussed at this meeting such as organizing bird walks and other field trips, promoting our excellent Audubon conservation newsletter for school classes (Audubon Adventures), and organizing educational booths and programs.

Because of the scope of this committee, we will need many volunteers from our chapter to help. Although the Education Committee would certainly value assistance from teachers, anyone with the desire to help with this worthwhile endeavor is most welcome to join this group. If you would like to volunteer for this committee or have ideas in this area that you would like to share, please call any of the following officers to find out when the next meeting is scheduled--- Paul Bauer (921-3972), Dave Tylka (296-1419), Eugenia Larson (434-1190) or Mary Lou Miller (389-3969).